Communicating the Value of the 340B Program

Hampton Regional Medical Center, Varnville SC
Hampton Regional Medical Center (HRMC) has served the region for over 60 years, and we continually work toward expanding and improving our services to better meet the health needs in our community. HRMC, a 32-bed acute care hospital located in Varnville, South Carolina, is the only full-service hospital located within Hampton County.

HRMC is a 501(c)3, private not-for-profit hospital that is also designated as a Sole Community Hospital and provides a wide range of services to its community including cardiology, cardiopulmonary, orthopedics, primary care, surgery, rehabilitation services, imaging services, laboratories, and social services, among others. It is located in the Federally designated “Promise Zone” in South Carolina, which is one of only two rural Promise Zones in the nation.

HRMC’s mission is Compassion, Commitment and Excellence. Every Person, Every Time. Despite HRMC’s success, the rural location and population creates many challenges. Currently, 16.3% of the population of Hampton County is 65 and older, and 20.5% of all families have an income that puts them below the Federal poverty line. This high degree of need in the community creates an enormous financial burden for the facility, as HRMC acts as a safety net provider for community members. There are numerous challenges with patient access as a result of their inability to pay for services, and increasing difficulty for patients to adhere to their provider’s recommendations due to the high costs of medications and services. This results in a number of individuals in the community delaying care and ending up in the Emergency Room.

340B: A Federal Program Supporting Safety-Net Providers
In 2009, HRMC began participating in the 340B Drug Program. This program was created by the Federal Government and requires drug manufacturers to provide “outpatient” drugs to eligible health organizations and covered entities at reduced pricing. Thru savings obtained in the 340B program, HRMC has been able to maintain vital community services such as access to 24/7 emergency services, fund other services such as the creation of our oncology program, diabetes education program, and expand hours at our outpatient clinic. In 2018, HRMC was able to provide over $2.3 million in free or discounted care to patients in our community.

Impact if the Program is Scaled Back
If the 340B program is reduced or eliminated, the impact to HRMC could be devastating. Access to care for patients in our rural area is already limited, and any changes in the 340B program could jeopardize HRMC’s capacity to offer the services listed above.